

Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp Funded Projects

Striped Bass Fishing Maps Reprint – \$9,900

Stamp funds and Sport Fish Restoration Act funds were used to pay for the reprint of striped bass fishing maps.

Project Status: Completed in 2005.

Central Valley Angler Survey – \$1,252,000

The Central Valley Angler Survey (CVAS) is funded by a (five-year) Sport Fish Restoration Act grant (75%) and the Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp (25%). The survey area includes the Sacramento, Feather, Yuba, American, Mokelumne, and Calaveras rivers, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The objective is to survey anglers, analyze collected data, and prepare reports estimating angler effort, catch, and harvest for all major fish species. The focus of the survey is on anadromous fish species: Chinook salmon, steelhead/rainbow trout, sturgeon, striped bass, and American shad. Data collected from this survey will allow for continued management of anadromous sport fisheries in the Central Valley, while also minimizing fishing impacts to listed steelhead. In addition, the CVAS works closely with the Department's Ocean Salmon Project to provide data on the inland recreational fishery as input to the salmon management process of the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Project Status: In progress.

Warden Overtime for Sturgeon Poaching – \$50,000

The Stamp Program funded overtime hours for Special Operation Unit wardens investigating the illegal take and sales of sturgeon from the Sacramento River. The investigation, dubbed Operation Delta Beluga III, led to the arrest of ten individuals including anglers and brokers of sturgeon products.

Project Status: Completed in 2006.

Aquarium in the Classroom Program – \$10,000

The Aquarium in the Classroom Program is located in the Bay Area and provides teachers with equipment, support, and training so they can provide their classrooms with meaningful curriculum on salmonids. The community also participates in these programs. The teachers and the community guide the students through the salmon rearing and release process. Stamp funds were used to purchase aquariums, chillers and educational DVD's.

Project Status: Completed in 2006.

Turtle Bay Boating and Fishing Access Facility – \$50,000

Stamp funds were used to support angler access improvements at the Turtle Bay Access Facility on the Sacramento River in Redding. Improvements paid for by the Stamp include restroom upgrades, a grass access ramp, night lighting, informational panels, and addition of accessible parking and loading zone.

Project Status: Completed in 2007.

Sturgeon Punch Card – \$21,511

Stamp funds were used to pay for the printing and distribution of the Sturgeon Punch Card in 2009. Stamp funds were used to cover these costs so anglers would not be charged for the punch card. Information gathered from the punch card will enable the Department to better control poaching, calculate a stronger population abundance estimate, and better understanding the fishery.

Project Status: Completed in 2009.

Upper Sunrise Boat Launch Facility Improvements – \$100,000

Stamp funds were used for improvements to the Upper Sunrise Boat Launch Facility on the lower American River. Improvements to the boat launch facility include replacement of the boat launch ramp, realignment of the boating access and recreational trail, improvements to the restroom and parking facilities, and ADA-compliant access to the boating facilities.

Project Status: Completed in 2009.

New Salmon Rearing Net Pen - \$26,732.81

Stamp funds were used to purchase a new floating net pen for the San Francisco Tyee Club's salmon rearing project.

Project Status: Completed in 2009.

Feather River Hatchery Chinook Salmon Coded Wire Tagging - \$49,000

For consistency with the on-going Central Valley-wide Constant Fractional Marking/Tagging Program, the Brood Year 2008 fall-run Chinook salmon reared at Feather River Hatchery Annex will need to be marked and coded-wire tagged at a 25% rate in the spring of 2009. This program will provide valuable data for improved management of ocean and inland fisheries, assessment of the effectiveness of habitat improvement programs, and evaluation of hatchery programs. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission currently operates the Central Valley CFM program as a unified program, with funding from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, and Department of Water Resources. The Stamp Program provided funds for supplies and personnel needed for the marking/tagging of fish reared for enhancement purposes at Feather River Annex in 2008/09.

Project Status: Completed in 2009.

Merced River Salmon Spawning Habitat Restoration - \$36,270

Stamp funds were used to provide a one-time addition of suitable spawning gravels (approximately 1.2 acres or 1,200 tons of gravel) in the first riffle immediately downstream from the Crocker-Huffman Diversion Dam in the lower Merced River. This will replenish depleted spawning gravels for steelhead/rainbow trout and improve Chinook salmon spawning habitat.

Project Status: Completed in 2009.

Central Valley Hatchery Salmon Acclimation Program – \$294,000

The Department of Fish and Game has a three-year contract (2008-2010) with the Fishery Foundation of California to acclimate all Central Valley hatchery salmon smolts and release them into San Pablo Bay. This project reduces transport stress on the young salmon and increases their chances of survival to adults.

In spring and early summer, Chinook salmon smolts are trucked from Nimbus, Mokelumne River and Feather River fish hatcheries to release sites near San Pablo Bay and Carquinez Strait. At the release sites, up to six hatchery trucks offload their shipment of young salmon into floating net pens. The pens are immediately covered with netting to prevent predation by birds, fish, and marine mammals, or the escape of any of the new possibly disoriented jumping fish. The fish are then allowed to settle and acclimate in the pens to the new water conditions for between one to three hours. Once the tides are outgoing, the nets are towed out into the deep water channel and the salmon are released. In 2008, 20 million young salmon were placed in net pens and released into San Pablo Bay.

Project Status: In progress.

Sturgeon Forensics – \$175,000

A major threat to California's white sturgeon population is the illegal take and commercialization of this resource. Sturgeon caviar and meat are both sold on the "black market" and is a financial incentive for active and would-be poachers. Officials in the DFG Enforcement Branch have identified the commercialization of white sturgeon as a high priority for enforcement and requested that the Wildlife Forensic Laboratory develop forensic techniques to assist enforcement in two different areas:

1. To differentiate farm raised white sturgeon caviar from wild white sturgeon caviar.
2. To be able to assign white sturgeon forensic samples to a specific watershed or to a specific population of fish and to have the ability to match or exclude forensic samples.

Project Status: In progress.

Economic Analysis of Sport Fishing in the Central Valley, California – \$228,208.50

The Stamp Program and Striped Bass Stamp Fund are co-funding the Program for Applied Research and Evaluation at California State University, Chico to conduct an economic analysis of the impact of fishing for striped bass, halibut, black bass, steelhead and Chinook salmon in the Bay-Delta and Sacramento-San Joaquin river system.

Project Status: In progress.

South Bonnyview Boating and Fishing Access Improvements – \$203,500

The Stamp Program is providing funds to the City of Redding for angler access improvements to the South Bonnyview Boating and Fishing Access Facility on the Sacramento River. Improvements to the facility include addition of an ADA-compliant fishing platform, 0.7 miles of angler access trails, new picnic facilities, and enhanced restrooms.

Project Status: In progress.

Untied Anglers of Casa Grande Chinook Salmon Tagging Program - \$100,000

Stamp funds will be used to launch a tagging program for Chinook salmon at the United Anglers of Casa Grande (UACG) conservation fish hatchery. Data are needed to evaluate the success of the UACG's hatchery-based supportive breeding program in meeting release objectives. A tagging program would allow the UACG to determine: (1) the relative contribution of UACG hatchery fish to the ocean commercial and sport fishery; (2) the return rates of UACG hatchery fish; (3) if UACG hatchery fish are recovered elsewhere in the Central Valley; and (4) the relative contribution of UACG hatchery fish to the Bay-Delta inland sport fishery. The Stamp Program will fund the UACG's tagging program for three years beginning in spring of 2009.

Project Status: Tagging for year 1 has been completed.

Central Valley Steelhead Comprehensive Monitoring Plan - \$79,737

Stamp funds will pay for the completion of the Central Valley Steelhead Comprehensive Monitoring Plan (CVSCMP). The CVSCMP will be incorporated by DFG, DWR, and USFWS to assess steelhead abundance, distribution, and population trends in the Central Valley. It will provide a scientifically defensible estimate of Central Valley steelhead distribution and population numbers. This is important in addressing the recovery of a listed species and improving the fisheries to maintain a viable recreational fishery for this native species. In addition, it may identify the best areas for restoration and enhancement efforts to better recover the population.

Project Status: In progress.

Department of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division - \$250,000 Annually

The Law Enforcement Division of the Department of Fish and Game is seeing increased non-compliance from sport fishers in the Bay-Delta region. Citation numbers are on the increase as activity levels remain constant. Increased uniformed patrols are proactive and tend to promote compliance with existing laws. With current warden staffing levels being the lowest per capita in the nation, additional funds are needed to have the limited number of wardens available be as visible as possible over the greatest timeframe.

Beginning in 2009, the Department of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division will receive \$250,000 in Stamp funds annually. Access to stamp monies will provide the warden force with an opportunity for enhanced and directed patrols focused solely on the Bay-Delta region and the surfacing law enforcement issues. Enhance patrols would include overtime opportunities for those wardens in and around the region to work specific hot spots and areas identified with increased violations. These overt patrols improve compliance with the laws and protect Bay-Delta fisheries.

Project Status: Continuous.

Department of Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division - \$139,263

In 2009, Department of Fish and Game wardens in the Special Operation Unit (SOU) will receive \$139,263 in Stamp funds to pay for overtime for Game Wardens specifically assigned to investigate the illegal commercialization of California's Fish and Wildlife.

Since approximately 2001, the SOU has been involved in large scale investigations into the illegal commercialization of white sturgeon in the Bay Delta/Sacramento River system. It became apparent during this time frame that white sturgeon, especially the large, egg bearing females, were being targeted for their roe, eventually processed into caviar for monetary gain on the black market. The profits gained by the anglers and caviar processors are tremendous.

The SOU spends the majority of their time investigating these violations in the Delta and Sacramento River from December through May, while the spawning sturgeon are in the system. The SOU also spends some of the early fall months while the striped bass bite is on investigating the sales and establishing intelligence for investigations. The large scale investigations are extremely time intensive as they have to identify those involved, document the commercialization and resale of the Bay Delta fish species, acquire arrest and search warrants, organize briefings and service of the warrants and work through the court system in order to successfully prosecute the organized crime groups profiting from illegal sales.

Project Status: In progress.

Discover the Delta Foundation Informational Display - \$15,000

This is one project within the overall larger project of designing, permitting, and constructing the Delta Information and Visitor Center (~1.7 million) and its displays. BDSFES funds would pay for one display within the Information and Visitor Center. It would educate anglers on fishing-related topics specific to the Delta region such as native and non-native fish species, recreational and commercial fishing, public health issues,

locations and requirements for fishing licenses and location and type of improved access points for recreational fishing.

Project Status: The contract for this project was cancelled due to the Governor's request to reduce contract expenditures.

Fish Cleaning Station at Discovery Park - \$89,000

The County of Sacramento Department of Regional Parks will receive Stamp funds for the installation of a fish cleaning station at Discovery Park. The purpose is to provide anglers with a clean, sanitary facility for fish cleaning and waste disposal.

Project Status: Contract pending.

Tiburon Salmon Institute - \$49,982.90

The Stamp Program will provide funds to the Tiburon Salmon Institute (TSI) for educational and public awareness events and to install and manage salmon rearing net pens. Specifically, Stamp funds will pay TSI to: (1) coordinate, plan and carryout the Salmon Kiss and Release program in May and October; and (2) install salmon rearing net pens at the Romberg Center (San Francisco State University) in Tiburon and manage the fish in the pens until they are released.

Project Status: In progress.

Upper Sacramento River Basin Chinook Salmon Escapement Monitoring - \$663,359

BDSFES funds will be used to monitor the annual abundance, migration timing, and distribution of adult fall-run Chinook salmon returning to spawn throughout the Upper Sacramento River Basin in 2009 through 2011.

Project Status: Contract pending.